verdigris constantly formed in the brasses, paint destroyed, &c. He cannot understand, therefore, how it happens "that the gas was submitted to *chemical investigation*, and pronounced free from any injurious mixtures." There is a good deal of humbug in some "chemical investigations:" that is very clear.

Salisbury.—"The directors of the highways of this city," says a Hampshire paper, "contemplate taking active steps to procure a cheaper mode of lighting for the city; and with that view they purpose renewing the inquiries of last year, into the high charges of the gas company. We are assured, by one of the directors, that a London house is ready to put gas of good quality into the existing gasometer, or into new works, at the rate of 2*s.* per 1,000 feet; and it is justly considered, under such circumstances, that the charge to the public here should not be more than 4*s.* per 1,000; as it is not thought to be just that the present consumers should pay for the interest of capital unwisely expended, to an extent threefold what is now requisite to lay down pipes and construct the works necessary for supplying the whole city and borough."

Ruthin.—A meeting has been called here to consider the best mode of supplying the town with water. The source now fixed on is the Llanbedr Hall estate, and a company is in course of formation.

Ulverston.—It is said that a company is in the course of formation in Ulverston for the establishment of water-works to give the town a sufficient supply of soft and pure water. The amount of capital required is about 7,000*l.*

Glasgow.—Mr. Donald Henderson, of St. Vincent-street, has taken out a patent for an improved apparatus for generating gas. This apparatus is said to be a kitchen range, by which, independent of all the ordinary uses of a kitchen grate, a house of any extent may be supplied with carburetted hydrogen gas sufficient to illuminate every apartment therein and outhouses, if required, and that at one-fourth of the average price of gas generally supplied to towns. Mr. Henderson, it appears, has also patented some improvements in the combustion of gas for heating, by which objections to it as a heating medium are said to have been overcome; also, a bath in which water is to be heated by the same process.

AMERICAN MATTERS.

A Union Monument is to be erected at New Orleans at a cost of 20,000 dollars. It will perpetuate the name of Henry Clay, a statue of whom is to occupy the summit.

Iron Veneering for Buildings.—Mr. Gouch, of Harlem, has invented and is now applying a new (?) improvement in architecture. This is ornamental cast-iron plates put on the front of a house, like veneering on cabinet work. The castings are made in the plates, and put on by a permanent elastic cement which allows for the expansion and contraction of the metal.

Iron Furniture.—The *Boston Transcript* says,—"The manufacture of iron furniture is creating a revolution. Iron is being substituted for wood wherever it can be done; and as it has now been demonstrated that furniture and household ornaments of every description can be manufactured of iron, of far more artistic forms, with far more beautiful polish, and with greater economy to the manufacturer and to the consumer than wood, it is not strange that iron furniture is becoming so popular, and being so rapidly introduced. It never wears out: it is capable of being wrought into far more splendid forms: it is susceptible of a far higher degree of polish, gilding, and finish; and articles are there on exhibition which are finished in imitation of the finest Sevres porcelain; sofas, settees, chairs, and other articles of iron, with clocks in *papier maché*, bronze, gilding, wood, and all other colours and imitations. Some are inlaid with pearl, richly coloured and tinted, and, in fact, we have never seen, in this country, furniture manufactured with so much elegance and taste. A very great change has been wrought in a year or two on this subject, and greatly for the advantage of the entire community. The physicians of the hospitals in New York have banished wooden bedsteads and furniture as fast as they could from the walls of these institutions.

Book Sales.—The last trade sales at New York lasted seventeen days, and amounted to nearly 100,000*l.*

A Floating Theatre.—Spaulding, the circus proprietor, is about building in Cincinnati a monster floating palace, for theatrical, circus, and menagerie performances. It is to be 400 feet long, with 60 feet beam, and is to accommodate 4,000 spectators. It is to be towed by two steam tenders to the various towns upon the Mississippi and its tributaries, in summer, and to be moored at the levee in New Orleans in the winter. It is estimated to cost 40,000 dollars.

Boston Ship Building.—The feats of the yacht *America* have been entirely eclipsed, says the *Transcript*, by those of the *Flying Cloud*, built at East Boston by Mr. Donald M'Kay. This skimmer of the seas made the voyage from New York to San Francisco in eighty-nine days. She ran, in three days, 992 miles.

The Astor Library, New York.—The *Home Circle* gives a description of this building, executed by Mr. Saeltzer, the architect. The building is constructed after the style of the Byzantine school of architecture. The first story and part of the second are built of brown stone: the columns, architraves of windows, the cornice, parapet, and the ornamental work are of the same material. The height of the front of the building, from the level of the sidewalk up to the top line of the parapet, is 67½ feet, the length 125 feet, and breadth 65 feet. The ascent to the entrance will be by six stone steps, to a brown stone platform into the front vestibule, ornamented on either side by a stone sphynx; from thence to a flight of thirty-two marble steps, 8 feet in breadth, leading to the library-hall floor. Upon approaching the summit of these steps, the visitor finds himself near the centre of an immense alcove, encircled by fourteen piers, formed of brick, plastered and finished to resemble white marble, and supporting galleries of iron midway between the floor and the ceiling. The side walls form a continued row of shelving and book cases, capable of containing 100,000 volumes. Above the floor of the main hall, at an elevation of 52 feet, is the principal skylight, 54 feet long and 14 feet broad, formed of thick glass, set in iron. Besides these, there are circular side skylights of smaller dimensions. Thorough ventilation has been secured by iron fretwork in suitable portions of the ceiling.

Strikes in America.—The *Boston Traveller* says, as to a recent strike on the part of the machinists,—"As was foretold, the machinists are gradually having their wages reduced. Not directly, as the labour of mechanics is still in good demand, but by a gradual process, which, in the end, will prove full as effective as an immediate reduction. The proprietors are discharging, one by one, the men they least need, and these men, thrown out of business, seek employment at other shops, where they are, with scarcely an exception, obliged to labour for less wages."

THE SEWERS COMMISSIONERS.

Can it be possible the Commissioners of Sewers (according to the report of the last day's proceedings) are serious when they propose the drainage of Lee, in Kent, as a matter of the first and greatest importance, to be discussed on that and the next day of meeting, in preference to every other work of necessity, so anxiously expected in the metropolis? Now, in the name of common sense and the people of London, is this to be allowed? Are the pestilential courts abounding even in my own immediate vicinity, with all their abominable exhalations and horrors, to remain as they are, while both the time and money of the commissioners, with a host of engineers, surveyors, and draftsmen, are to be employed on the drainage of Lee, in Kent, already one of the most salubrious and delightful retreats in the neighbourhood of London? Is it, I ask, because one of the chief commissioners, the principal mover of this scheme, Capt. Dawson, resides in this fortunate locality, that all the crying evils and abominations of London are to be suspended, in order to make this Lee a sort of paradise for Capt. Dawson and the numerous great guns, his associates, who sojourn in these would-be Elysian fields?

John Bailey Denton.

THE ROYAL FREEMASONS' SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

Widely spread is the charity of the Freemasons: they stand pre-eminent for practical benevolence. We give in our present number a view of a building now being erected by them at Wandsworth for their school for female children, from the design of Mr. Hardwick, R.A.

This charity was instituted on the 25th of March, 1788, by the late Chevalier Bartholomew Ruspini, for the purpose of maintaining, clothing, and educating female children, daughters of brethren belonging to the Society of Free and Accepted Masons, who, from affluent or prosperous circumstances, have become so reduced as to require its aid, and for protecting and preserving them from the dangers and misfortunes to which distressed young females are peculiarly exposed,—of training them up in the knowledge and love of virtue, and such habits of industry as are necessary to their condition,—and of impressing on their minds a due sense of subordination, true humility, and the principles and practice of social, moral, and religious duty.

This school is entirely supported by voluntary contributions. 642 children have been admitted into it since its establishment.

The present school-house, which is calculated to accommodate sixty-two children, is situate near the Obelisk, in St. George's-fields, Southwark, and was erected by the governors in 1793, at an expense of upwards of 3,000*l.*, upon ground held under leases of the City of London, which leases will expire in March 1853. A sum almost equal to the above amount has since been expended upon the premises; and if it had been considered advisable to renew the leases (which could not have been done but at a much enhanced rental), a very large amount must again have been expended to render the building more convenient and properly available for the purposes of the charity.

Under these circumstances, the governors considered it desirable, on account of the health and morals of the children, as well as for enlarging the usefulness of the institution, to purchase freehold land in a better situation, on which to erect a more commodious edifice; and a building, such as we have represented, is now being raised there. The new locality, in Wandsworth, contains all the advantages such an institution can require,—contiguity to London, and easy access to the premises,—gravel soil, extensive views, an abundant supply of water, close vicinity to places of worship, salubrious air, and extensive grounds. The building when finished will hold eighty children, and accommodation can be easily supplied for a larger number if it should ever be required. The cost will be about 8,000*l.*, and it is proposed to make the establishment perfect in every sanitary point of view.

We willingly aid its promoters in solicitin support for an institution which has alread effected so much good, and which, under the direction of Providence, its enlarged capabilities will enable the governors materially to extend.

Drying Leather.—One of your correspondents of last week, "J. M.," inquires as to the best method of drying leather. He will find that the most perfect method of doing so is upon the desiccating principle, viz., the application of rapid currents of heated air, of any required temperature, which can be kept uniform at pleasure throughout the process, thereby avoiding the irregularity of heat arising from common furnaces, which is more apt to destroy than to dry, and more especially such a substance as leather.—D. G.

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